

Message Text

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S E C R E T CAIRO 9296

EXDIS

DEPT PASS SECRETARY

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR EG US
SUBJECT: EGYPTIAN COMPLAINT RE ISRAEL ACTIVITIES IN SINAI

REF: CAIRO 8474

1. FAHMY SPOKE TO ME TODAY ABOUT ALLEGED FURTHER ISRAELI ACTIVITIES AIMED AT ESTABLISHING A PERMANENT ISRAELI PRESENCE IN SINAI. SPECIFICALLY, HE CLAIMED GOE HAS RECEIVED INFORMATION THAT THE ISRAELI MILITARY AUTHORITIES IN SINAI HAVE EMBARKED ON A PLAN WHOSE PURPOSE IS THE ANNEXATION OF ABU TAWILAH AND SHEIKH ZUWAID TO ISRAEL IN ORDER TO SECURE ANOTHER PORT FOR ISRAEL ON THE MEDITERRANEAN AND TO ISOLATE GAZA FROM EGYPT. THEY HAVE ALLEGEDLY TAKEN THE FOLLOWING STEPS TO SUPPORT THIS PLAN:

A) SEVERAL ROADS HAVE BEEN BUILT CONNECTING THE AREA WITH BEERSHEBA AND AL-UJA, WHICH IS LOCATED IN THE TERRITORY OCCUPIED BY ISRAEL IN 1948, B) A NEW AIRPORT HAS BEEN BUILT NEAR HASSANA NEAR THE AFOREMENTIONED AREA, C) ABOUT 50 PERCENT OF THE LAND IN THE AREA HAS BEEN PURCHASED FROM OWNERS OFTEN BY USE OF COERSION, D) ATTEMPTS HAVE BEEN MADE TO INTIMIDATE OWNERS WHO WERE UNWILLING TO SELL BY PLACING THEM IN CAMPS BEHIND BARBED WIRE, E) INHABITANTS OF AL-ARISH HAVE BEEN DENIED ACCESS TO THE AREA. ACCORDING TO EGYPTIAN REPORTS, THE ISRAELIS INTEND TO SETTLE SOME JEWS, ESPECIALLY EGYPTIAN JEWS, IN THIS

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AREA.

2. FAHMY STATED THAT IF THE ABOVE REPORT IS TRUE, IT PROVES THAT THE ISRAELIS ARE NOT SERIOUS IN WANTING TO MOVE TOWARD PEACE. HE RECALLED THAT PRESIDENT SADAT HAD SOME WEEKS AGO BROUGHT TO THE SECRETARY'S ATTENTION SUCH ISRAELI ANNEXATION-IST ACTIVITIES IN THESE AREAS (REFTEL) AND HAD WARNED THAT IF THE ISRAELIS ATTEMPT TO EVICT OR RELOCATE THE SINAI TRIBAL PEOPLE, EGYPT WILL TAKE THE PROBLEM TO THE SECURITY COUNCIL. THE PRESIDENT HAD RECEIVED NO REPLY TO HIS EARLIER MESSAGE. FMY STATED THE ABOVE IS A MATTER OF GREAT IMPORTANCE TO EGYPT. HE ASKED THAT USG STRONGLY PRESS ISRAEL TO DESIST FROM SUCH ACTIVITIES WHOSE PURPOSE IS ANNEXATION OF PARTS OF THE SINAI.

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